



FIRST BRICS CYCLE OF DEBATES

The trade union organizations of public sector workers affiliated to Public Services International (PSI), from Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa – BRICS- with the participation of representatives from China, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Honduras, Peru, Paraguay and Colombia, assembled at the first BRICS Cycle of Debates held in Brasilia from 8 to 10 August 2013, state that:

Whereas the BRICS bloc emerged as an alternative to the outdated hegemony generated since the 1940's, in which a few countries command the bodies of global governance such as the IMF, World Bank and others, seeking to create better balance, albeit in the capitalist context, among alleged developed countries and developing countries;

Considering also the criticisms made by the developing countries to the policies dictated by such governance bodies, in particular those impositions relating to trade and conditions required to obtain international loans;

Analyzing that public services have been strongly attacked and undermined by neoliberal policies ordered by the international financial institutions, and that these policies - promoting budget cuts, reduction of offers, deregulation, loss of jobs and flexibilization of rights, have generated significant worsening of vital services that are essential to people's well-being - to the detriment to society as a whole;

Also analyzing that the problems generated by hegemonic countries continue to harm and threaten public services, such as the recent initiative to start the debates on a new agreement, known as TISA (Trade in Services Agreement), which proposes strong privatization and deregulation of these services, again in favor of the transnational corporations and against the best interests of our societies.

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The global agreement we defend is for fair taxation of wealth, particularly the financial transactions tax, to combat speculation and raise funds for the delivery of quality public services.

Noting the lack of social dialogue that persists in countries that are members of the BRICS, in which basic trade union rights such as freedom of association, collective bargaining and the right to strike are not properly implemented. At this point, we emphasize the importance of the ratification and effective application of the ILO Conventions 151 and 154, to promote decent work and full trade union rights in the various member countries of the BRICS;

Perceiving that unprecedented events like this one, carried out by the public sector unions, are intended to promote not only an economic BRICS, but a social BRICS, in which the globalization of rights is a common goal among nations;

We have decided to:

- 1- Establish within PSI, with the present trade unions, an improved Trade Union Coordination of Public Workers of the BRICS Countries, to follow the cycle of the debates and to promote actions in defense of quality public services and trade union rights in various regions of the world.
- 2- Participate, along with the Trade Union Centers of the respective countries, in the trade union activities promoted within the BRICS Trade Union Forum, starting with the next Summit to be held in Fortaleza, Brazil, in March 2014. In general workers' activities, we will have the role to highlight the issues related to our sector, acting in the direction of strengthening the State in order to provide quality public services and to fight corruption.
- 3- Propose the official creation of a space for the participation of workers in the framework of BRICS, similarly to what already exists for the participation of business entrepreneurs.
- 4- Promote bilateral exchange activities between public sector unions of the BRICS countries, enabling better understanding of the different realities of the diverse countries. In these exchanges, we should advance the position that the agreements made among any of the BRICS countries should not reproduce the many negative aspects of the trade agreements determined by the dominant

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countries, and should not establish negative clauses to workers' or interests or the common good.

- 5- Provide these conclusions to the respective governments and extensively publicize these important decisions to society, particularly to our affiliates, our trade union centers and partners.

Brasil - August, 2013.

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